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to construct his catalogue of southern stars (1750), the mural-quadrant of LALANDE (1774–1834),* etc., etc.

It is not the object of this note to do more than to give the briefest description of the observatory at Paris, which has had so brilliant a history. For a fuller account of its work reference is made to the *Astronomie Pratique* of the AUDRÉ and RAYET and to the Annual Reports of the Director, Admiral MOUCHEZ.

E. S. H.

## TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE OF APRIL, 1893. LICK OBSERVATORY EXPEDITION TO CHILE.

The line of totality of the solar eclipse of April, 1893, passes across South America from Chile to Brazil and cuts the African coast in Senegambia. It is probable that parties from the United States and from Europe will establish stations on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean in Brazil and in Africa. The Harvard College Observatory has a station in Peru and will probably observe the eclipse somewhere in South America. At the suggestion of Professor SCHAEBERLE plans were made for sending an observer from the Lick Observatory to the west coast of Chile, and the necessary expenses of such an observer have been provided for by the generous gift of a friend of the observatory. The expedition from the Lick Observatory will be entirely photographic and its object will be to secure pictures of the inner and outer corona on the general plan which was so successful at the eclipses of January and of December, 1889.

The instruments to be employed will be, the 6½-inch equatorial, the 5-inch (40 foot focus) photo-heliograph objective, and a DALLMEYER portrait lens. Professor SCHAEBERLE may have the volunteer assistance of Mr. GALE, an amateur of Paddington, N. S. W.

E. S. H.

## EXHIBIT OF THE LICK OBSERVATORY AT THE WORLD'S FAIR IN CHICAGO.

The World's Fair Commission of Santa Clara County, California, has set apart the sum of $300 to aid the Lick Observatory in preparing an exhibit for the World's Fair in 1893. The observatory proposes to send a large model of the Summit of Mount Hamilton, showing the principal building to scale; as well as to display a large number of framed glass transparencies of astronomical photographs taken here together with similar transparencies of the buildings, instruments and apparatus. Messrs. WARNER & SWASEY will send a large drawing of the 36-inch equatorial on a scale of $\frac{1}{12}$. The Union Iron Works may also send a model of the great *Dome*. E. S. H.

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* *See* LALANDE'S *Astronomie*, vol. ii.

## IMPROVEMENTS OF THE MOUNT HAMILTON ROAD.

The Road Master of the Mount Hamilton District has agreed to place stout posts on the outside of the road at the most dangerous points and the Regents of the University will furnish stout wire-rope to string through the posts. In this way the road will be made safe to drive over at all times.

It has always been perfectly safe by day; but the present improvement will remove the risks which certainly have attended driving over the road by night, especially in stormy and dark weather. Fortunately no accident has occurred, so far, on the seven miles of mountain road. E. S. H.

## POPULAR SCIENCE IN BERLIN.

The streets of Berlin are soon to be enriched by a large number of so-called "Urania pillars," of which it is proposed to set up in all 300. These pillars will be about 18 feet high, constructed of cast iron, and will each contain a clock, meteorological instruments, weather-charts, astronomical and geographical announcements, and also, as in the streets of Paris, a plan of the neighboring streets in enlarged form to enable strangers to find their way. The instruments are to be regulated from the observatory. —*Public Opinion*, April 8, 1892.

## POMONA COLLEGE PRESENTED WITH A NEW TELESCOPE.

POMONA, April 26.

The students and friends of the Pomona Congregational College are happy at the news of the purchase of an $8000 telescope for that institution by some unknown lady in Ventura county. The purchase was make some weeks ago, and the instrument will soon be formally presented to the college. The telescope will be the largest of the kind in Southern California.

—S. F. *Chronicle*, April 27, 1892.

## SCIENTIFIC VISITORS TO THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

Dr. D. KIRKWOOD, the Dean of American astronomers, who is now in his 78th year, paid a short visit to the Lick Observatory in May, after the completion of his course of astronomical lectures at the Stanford University at Palo Alto.

## A GLIMPSE OF KEPLER.

In the year 1623 Duke FERDINAND Y GONZAGA wishing to give more renown to his little University of Mantua determined to seek for the most celebrated man of Austria to become the Professor of Mathematics. Accordingly he addressed a note to ZUCCONI, his minister-resident at Vienna, to instruct him to find the savant who was wanted. The reply of ZUCCONI is interesting as throwing a light on the state of learning in Vienna at that time and especially as giving us a glimpse of the great KEPLER. ZUCCONI answered the Duke that he would do his best to find the mathematician in question, but that the Duke must recollect that such matters were not of the least interest to the Viennese: "*in questa città si attende a ogni altra cosa*"*!* And, moreover, the only man he could think of was one KEPLER, of Linz, who was reputed to be the first mathematician of Germany; but as in the first place, he was a heretic, and as in the second, he was disposed to remain comfortably at home—"*per star comodissimamente in casa sua*"—the arrangement was utterly impracticable. —*Geschichte der Weiner Journalistik*, von E. V. ZEUKER, noticed in *Revue des Deux Mondes*, vol. 110, p. 699.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC TELESCOPE FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI.

Sir HOWARD GRUBB, F. R. S., is engaged in making a pair of large equatorials for the University of Mississippi, which will be mounted side by side. The visual telescope will have an aperture of 15 inches and the photographic an aperture of 9 inches. E. S. H.

## THE NUMBER OF STARS SHOWN ON SOME STELLAR PHOTOGRAPHS [BY DR. MAX WOLF, OF HEIDELBERG].

In the *Astronomische Nachrichten*, no. 3091, Dr. WOLF gives some interesting statistics of counts which he has made on three